



North Dakota

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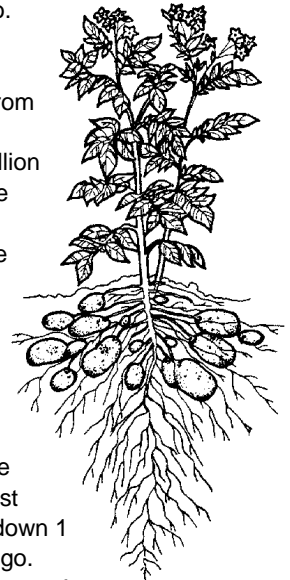
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POTATO STOCKS

North Dakota
 Stocks of potatoes totaled 7.20 million hundredweight (cwt) on May 1, 2005, in North Dakota's growers, dealers and processors storage facilities. Stocks are down 13 percent from last year, but up 31 percent from the May 1, 2003. Current

stocks represent 27 percent of the production, down from 30 percent last year, but up from 23 percent two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest totaled 19.6 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year and 9 percent from two years ago. Disappearance during April totaled 3.10 million cwt, above last April's disappearance of 2.90 million cwt and 2.40 million cwt two years ago. Total stocks are defined as all potatoes on hand, regardless of use, including those that will be lost through future shrinkage and dumping.



United States

The 15 major potato States held 87.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2005, up 2 percent from last year and 5 percent above May 1, 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 22 percent of the 2004 fall storage states' production, 1 percent above last year. Disappearance of 316 million cwt of potatoes is down 1 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Processors in the 9 major states have used 154 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 31.4 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production and May 1 Stocks

State	Crop of 2003		Crop of 2004	
	Production	Stocks May 1, 2004	Production	Stocks May 1, 2005
	-- 1,000 Cwt --		-- 1,000 Cwt --	
North Dakota	27,440	8,300	26,765	7,200
California	3,528	700	3,876	500
Colorado	23,652	4,300	23,148	4,600
Idaho	123,180	33,000	131,970	38,500
Maine	17,030	4,100	19,220	5,100
Michigan	15,015	1,500	13,650	1,100
Minnesota	22,330	5,500	18,920	5,100
Montana	3,339	1,000	3,551	400
Nebraska	9,744	1/	9,288	1/
New York	6,510	1/	5,184	1/
Ohio	1,097	1/	1,080	1/
Oregon	20,991	5,500	19,775	3,400
Pennsylvania	3,375	1/	2,640	1/
Washington	93,150	15,000	93,810	15,500
Wisconsin	32,800	4,200	30,450	3,900
Other States		1,900		1,690
15 State Total	403,181	85,000	403,327	86,990

1/ Combined into Other States.

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COUNTY CROP RANK

Rank of North Dakota Counties ^{1/}

County	Crop Production - 2004								
	Spring Wheat	Durum Wheat	Barley	Oats	Oil Sunflower	Canola	Soybeans	Corn Grain	Dry Edible Beans
Adams	38	17	50	43	32			45	
Barnes	8		22	26	13	28	3	8	21
Benson	18	27	5	32	21	10	20	27	8
Billings	52	32	51	41					
Bottineau	23	12	1	44	10	5	33		
Bowman	48	11	43	39	45	40		36	
Burke	49	8	27	27	34	13			
Burleigh	24	23	32	8	7	21	31	17	
Cass	2		25	38	28		1	2	13
Cavalier	1	14	9	51	42	1	32	51	23
Dickey	42	45	44	16	32		8	3	12
Divide	53	2	37	21	50	19			
Dunn	34	21	34	15	40	41		34	
Eddy	46	42	26	28	26	27	21	28	18
Emmons	15	39	16	2	3	39	27	11	
Foster	35	46	13	37	17	22	13	19	26
Golden Valley	50	20	49	24				30	
Grand Forks	5	47	33	49	12	35	11	13	1
Grant	39	36	47	13		32			
Griggs	32	41	23		19	26	14	15	20
Hettinger	12	6	42	45	24	17		25	
Kidder	43	30	36	4	14	30	28	18	
LaMoure	27	38	24	22	31		4	5	10
Logan	36	33	20	5	8		22	16	
McHenry	17	24	10	7	2	12	26	22	29
McIntosh	31	31	28	6	5	38	19	12	
McKenzie	44	7	21	19		23		39	
McLean	7	4	6	1	6	2	30	21	6
Mercer	45	16	31	11	18	24			
Morton	19	26	30	3	23			24	
Mountrail	33	3	11	10	25	7			
Nelson	22	37	19	32	20	15	15	40	15
Oliver	41	33	34	12	22	32	37		24
Pembina	4	40	38	48	36	31	18	31	4
Pierce	20	25	14	18	11	8	24	23	25
Ramsey	25	19	3	34	37	11	17	37	11
Ransom	29			31	30		9	6	7
Renville	30	13	4	30	15	6	35		
Richland	10		46		29		2	1	18
Rolette	37	18	18	23	35	9	37		
Sargent	26				49		6	4	16
Sheridan	28	28	15	14	16	14	23	20	
Sioux	51	44	52	47					
Slope	40	10	45	42	39	34			
Stark	16	9	38	25	37	29		32	
Steele	21		40		41		10	10	5
Stutsman	11	35	7	17	9	25	5	9	14
Towner	13	15	12	53	45	3	29	29	17
Traill	14		41	40	47		7	7	9
Walsh	3	29	29	35	27	18	16	26	2
Ward	6	5	2	9	1	4	25	33	26
Wells	9	22	8	20	4	16	12	14	3
Williams	47	1	17	29	51	20	34	41	29

^{1/} County rank may not be published to avoid disclosure of individual data.

OIL CROPS OUTLOOK

Stable U.S. Soybean Supply Supports a Firm 2005/06 Demand Outlook

The national average soybean yield in 2005 is projected at 39.9 bushels per acre, based on long term State yield trends and the intended acreage for each. Combined with an expected U.S. harvested area of 72.9 million acres, the yield would produce 2,895 million bushels of soybeans. A modest 2 percent increase in U.S. soybean exports to 1,125 million bushels from this season's record is anticipated, as shipments during the first half of 2005/06 could stay brisk. Domestic processors are believed capable of expanding the soybean crush by 2 percent in 2005/06 to 1,690 million bushels. The improvement in demand and reduction of output is seen paring back season ending soybean stocks next year to 290 million bushels. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) projects the 2005/06 national average farm price for soybeans at \$4.70-\$5.70 per bushel. Harvest losses caused the 2004/05 forecast of Brazil soybean production to be lowered again this month to 53.0 million metric tons from 54.0 million previously.

Expected Lower U.S. Soybean Output and Steady Demand To Cut Surplus Stocks for 2005/06

Mostly optimal weather during April has advanced crop planting very well this spring. U.S. farmers intend to sow 73.9 million acres of soybeans in 2005, the majority of which will be planted once they finish with their grain and cotton crops. As of May 8, producers had sown 26 percent of intended soybean acreage. Although planting progress for soybeans is not quite as advanced as a year ago, it is up slightly from the 5-year average of 23 percent.

The national average soybean yield in 2005 is projected at 39.9 bushels per acre, based on long term State yield trends and the intended acreage for each. The forecast also assumes that most farmers have not materially altered their usual production practices for the risk of Asian soybean rust and that they will be able to detect episodes and effectively manage them with fungicide applications.

These assumptions imply that the potential impact of the disease on soybeans would be greater on its production costs than for its yields. Thus, a trend yield on an expected U.S. harvested area of 72.9 million acres would produce 2,895 million bushels of soybeans. While 2005 production would be down 246 million bushels from the previous year, the total supply would be nearly the same because of a large increase in beginning stocks.

There will not be as dramatic an improvement in 2005/06 soybean demand as there has been in 2004/05, yet the outlook next season still appears relatively favorable for U.S. interests. World oilseed supplies are projected up 3 percent in 2005/06 to 435.6 million metric tons. Foreign supplies are expected to account for all of that 13 million ton increase. A modest 2 percent increase in U.S. soybean exports to 1,125 million bushels from this season's record is anticipated, as shipments during the first half of 2005/06 could stay brisk. Domestic processors are believed capable of expanding the soybean crush by 2 percent in 2005/06 to 1,690 million bushels. The improvement in demand and reduction of output is seen paring back season ending soybean stocks next year to 290 million bushels.

U.S. Export Demand for 2004/05 Holding Firm

Amidst robust global demand for imports (particularly from China), U.S. export shipments of soybeans have held a firm seasonal pace given the restrained marketing of supplies in Brazil. Yet, exports were winding down in April to around 64 million bushels versus 96 million in March. Current export price bids are narrowing against prices offered by domestic processors. Just two countries (China and Mexico) accounted for 57 percent of all U.S. soybean exports during April. Based on the strong year to date shipments, USDA raised its 2004/05 soybean export forecast this month from 1,080 million to 1,100 million bushels. The revision lowers the April forecast of season ending stocks from 375 million to 355 million bushels.

Source: Oil Crops Outlook, USDA-ERS, May 13, 2005

HAY STOCKS & WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

North Dakota
North Dakota stocks of all hay stored on farms totaled 917,000 tons on May 1, 2005, up 11 percent from the previous year. From December 1, 2004 to May 1, 2005, disappearance of hay totaled 3.01 million tons, which was 22 percent less hay used than in the same period a year ago. A factor that may have decreased hay disappearance was mild winter weather conditions, which allowed producers to maintain more stocks.

United States
Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.59 billion bushels, up 6 percent from 2004. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.4 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last season. The portion of the winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on May 1, at 63 percent, was 15 percentage points higher than last year.

Hay Stocks and Winter Wheat Production

Item	Unit	2003	2004	2005
Winter Wheat ^{1/}				
		United States		
Harvested for Grain	1,000 Acres	36,753	34,462	35,069
Yield Per Acre	Bushels	46.7	43.5	45.4
Production	1,000 Bushels	1,716,721	1,499,434	1,590,862
Hay Stocks		North Dakota		
Quantity, December 1	1,000 Tons	4,690	3923	
Quantity, May 1	1,000 Tons	940	828	917
Hay Stocks		United States		
Quantity, December 1	1,000 Tons	111,027	114,294	
Quantity, May 1	1,000 Tons	22,013	25,947	27,708

1/ 2005 winter wheat forecasted yield and production.

Stocks of all hay stored on farms May 1, 2005 totaled 27.7 million tons, up 7 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2004 - May 1, 2005, totaled 86.6 million tons, 2 percent greater than the disappearance of 85.1 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

MILK PRODUCTION

United States

Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from April 2004. March revised production, at 13.8 billion pounds, was up 2.9 percent from March 2004. The March revision represented a decrease of 0.1 percent or 20 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,679 pounds for April, 43 pounds above April 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.11 million head, 44,000 head more than April 2004, and 12,000 head more than March 2005.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 23 Major States 1/, 2004-2005 2/

Month	Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/		
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	Change from 2004
	- - -1,000 Head - - -		- - - Pounds - - -		- - - Million Pounds - - -		- - Percent - -
Jan	8,044	8,083	1,624	1,640	13,061	13,258	1.5
Feb	8,051	8,076	1,531	1,519	12,329	12,270	-0.5
Mar	8,059	8,095	1,661	1,702	13,387	13,779	2.9
April	8,063	8,107	1,636	1,679	13,194	13,612	3.2
May	8,064		1,692		13,641		
June	8,083		1,607		12,988		
July	8,096		1,623		13,143		
Aug	8,102		1,601		12,970		
Sep	8,104		1,533		12,426		
Oct	8,103		1,583		12,824		
Nov	8,102		1,531		12,404		
Dec	8,097		1,610		13,037		
Annual	8,081		19,232		155,404		

1/ AZ, CA, CO, FL, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA and WI. 2/ 2004 revised. 3/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 4/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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